United States Navy
SPAWAR Public Affairs & Corporate Communications
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Rapidly Providing Joint Warfighting Capability in San Diego

SAN DIEGO – The defense activities based in the San Diego area are optimally positioned to provide transformational command, control, computers, communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) capabilities for the joint warfighter, both today and tomorrow.

The synthesis of the user, acquisition professionals, C4ISR industry base, academia, other government facilities and direct access to several unique leading edge networking technology test beds, all co-located in one geographic area, shortens the timeline from technology development to warfighter application and increased effectiveness.

Key Southern California-based organizations in the SPAWAR Enterprise – SPAWAR Headquarters, the Program Executive Office for C4I and Space, and SPAWAR Systems Center, San Diego (SSC SD) – lead numerous joint C4I acquisition efforts fundamental to making the Global Information Grid and FORCEnet operational realities.

PEO C4I and Space, for example, directs several joint development projects and also works with the Air Force, Army, and Joint Forces Command in support of joint interoperability. In addition to supporting joint interoperability, these partnerships also yield business savings across the Department of Defense. SPAWAR, PEO C4I and Space and SSC SD also provide joint capabilities in support of the Global War on Terror.

SPAWAR, PEO C4I and Space and SSC SD have ties to academic institutions such as the University of California, San Diego, San Diego State University and the University of San Diego, as well as the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey. Intern opportunities have been established for undergraduate and graduate students from the local universities.

Sponsorships have been established with the Wagner SPAWAR Professor of Public Management Chair in the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy at NPS to promote academic research in government acquisition practices and policy. Collaboration with these academic resources facilitates creative application of evolving informational technologies to Naval C4ISR systems.

California-based industrial leaders such as SAIC, Northrop Grumman, Boeing and Titan serve as vital components of the C4ISR capabilities by providing major development, integration and production facilities nearby.

In addition, SSC San Diego maintains a set of research laboratory facilities, such as the Reconfigurable Land Based Test Site, a research, development, test and evaluation (RDT and E) facility that provides end-to-end, land-based developmental, operational, and certification testing of operational systems and architectures. The ability to test and evaluate operational architectures prior to installation reduces the risk of in-service complications.

The SPAWAR Enterprise in Southern California is also located near major Fleet and Marine Corps operating forces, including surface, air, subsurface, special warfare; other government RDT and E facilities, such as the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division and Los Angeles Air Force Base; and major Fleet training organizations and exercise zones in Southern California.

The importance of C4ISR capabilities, both to current warfighting operations and future transformation goals, is vital. It is further imperative that these capabilities be developed and fielded quickly and efficiently. In the rapidly evolving area of information technology, the imperatives of speed to capability and cost efficiency demand a synergy between technology development and warfighting application. The C4ISR defense capabilities in San Diego provide that synergy and will enable continued delivery of next generation C4I capabilities for the joint warfighter.

SPAWAR, PEO C4I and Space and SSC SD are well positioned to leverage local operating forces for technology experimentation by collecting invaluable feedback for the system developers. The close proximity to the Fleet ensures regular exchanges of operational understanding, which maximizes acquisition effectiveness and responsiveness. Overall, they are closely aligned to support joint C4ISR capabilities today and have the vision to develop the transformational capabilities to make network centric warfare and FORCEnet a reality tomorrow.

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